# **ComicFestival Munich - AWARD WINNERS 2023**

# PENG! – Der Münchner Comicpreis.



Comicfestival München Amerika Haus PING! Award Winner: Gedrun Penndrof, Helena Baumeister, Timur Vermes, Reiner Schneider, Michael Kompa, Dirk Wagner, Host Sabrina Schmatz and Heiner Luenstedt and Bavarian musician band Hans Biermoesl.



Best German Comic PING! winner Helena Baumeister "oh cupid" published by Avant-Verlag.



Best European Comic, PING! winner Igort "Reports from Ukraine 2: Diary of an Invasion" (reproduction).

Best comic from the English-speaking world, PING! winner Dave McKean: RAPTOR published by Cross Cult.

Best secondary literature, PING! winner Alexander Braun "The Katzenjammer Kids published by Avant-Verlag

Best edition of a classic, PING! winner Alan Moore and others "SWAMP THING" published by Panini Group (Panini comics)



SPECIAL PRICES for Timur Vermes a German writer. His first novel "Er ist wieder da", which has sold over a million copies in Germany, is a satire about Adolf Hitler and 21st-century Germany and Rainer Schneider who is member of the comic association Comicaze and employee of the Munich comic festival.



LIFE'S WORK for Gudrun Penndorf the Asterix translator. Gudrun Penndorf received the award for her life's work. Gudrun Penndorf translated numerous albums of the classic "Lucky Luke", as well as "Isnogud".

Article From OpenAI chatGPT "The History of Comic Books: From Pioneering Pages to Cultural Powerhouses"

### Introduction:

Comic books have evolved from their early origins into a dynamic and influential medium that has captured the hearts and minds of millions of readers worldwide. As we delve into the rich history of comic books, we uncover the pioneers, milestones, and societal impact that have shaped this remarkable art form.

### The Birth of Sequential Art:

The roots of comic books can be traced back to prehistoric times, where ancient civilizations depicted stories through sequential art on cave walls. However, it was not until the late 19th century that sequential art found its way into printed publications. The influential works of artists such as Rodolphe Töpffer in Europe and Richard Outcault in the United States laid the foundation for what would become the comic book medium.

## The Emergence of Newspaper Comics:

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, newspaper publishers recognized the appeal of comic strips and began incorporating them into their publications. The Yellow Kid, created by Richard Outcault, is often credited as the first comic strip to gain widespread popularity in the United States. These strips paved the way for the birth of comic books by introducing serialized narratives and captivating characters.

### The Rise of the Golden Age:

The true birth of the comic book industry occurred in the 1930s with the publication of the first comic book, Famous Funnies, in 1933. This era, known as the Golden Age of comics, witnessed the introduction of iconic superheroes like Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman. Publishers such as DC Comics (then known as National Comics) and later Marvel Comics (then Timely Comics) cemented their place in history by producing stories that resonated with readers during a time of economic depression and war.

The Comics Code Authority and the Silver Age:



# MagneticMan



In response to concerns about the content of comic books, the Comics Code Authority (CCA) was established in the 1950s. The CCA imposed strict guidelines on comic book publishers, leading to a decline in creative freedom and a decrease in sales. However, this era also marked the beginning of the Silver Age, characterized by the revitalization of superheroes and the introduction of new, more relatable characters. Marvel Comics, under the guidance of Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, led the charge with titles like The Fantastic Four, Stan Lee's Superhumans documetray and Spider-Man.

### The Bronze Age and the Evolution of Themes:

The 1970s saw the arrival of the Bronze Age, a period marked by a shift toward more socially relevant and mature storytelling. Creators like Denny O'Neil and Neal Adams tackled political and social issues in their works, while independent publishers like Underground Comix explored counterculture themes. This era also witnessed the rise of graphic novels as a medium for more complex narratives, with groundbreaking works like Will Eisner's "A Contract with God" and Art Spiegelman's "Maus" gaining critical acclaim.

The Modern Era and Beyond:

The modern era of comic books has seen an explosion of creativity and diversity. The 1980s and 1990s brought forth a wave of independent publishers, creator-owned titles, and experimental storytelling. Additionally, the rise of manga from Japan and the European comics tradition further expanded the global reach of the medium.

In recent years, comic books have become an integral part of popular culture, with adaptations in film, television, and video games reaching new heights. The Marvel Cinematic Universe and DC Extended Universe have catapulted superheroes into the mainstream, while independent publishers continue to push boundaries and explore new genres.